

FIFTH DAY—*Friday, 9th June 1933.*

The House re-assembled at 12 NOON.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—(*Continued*).

MR. KOLLA NARASIMHA SETTY (Arsikere Taluk).—

Q.—28. Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) The number of income-tax assesseees since the commencement of the Regulation?

(b) The number of appeals filed?

(c) The result in appeal?

(d) Has it come to the notice of the Government what the difficulties are that are being undergone thereby by the public?

(e) Is it possible for the Government to appoint a committee to reconsider the subject?

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.—

A.—28. (a), (b) and (c) *Vide* statement appended. (*Vide* Appendix).

(d) The meaning of the question is not quite clear.

(e) No.

Supplementary Questions and Answers.

MR. B. P. BASAPPA SETTY.—

What are the sources of information to the Income-tax Officers about the real income of assesseees?

Secretary to Government, Development Department.—

Several sources including private people.

MR. B. P. BASAPPA SETTY.—

At the time of hearing appeals, should not all the information gathered be made available to the parties?

Secretary to Government, Development Department.—

There is a Government order requiring that adequate reasons should be furnished and the assessee convinced that the assessment has been reasonably fixed.

Mr. B. P. Basappa Setty.—

Seeing that the rules are not being observed, will the Government issue a circular to the effect that adequate reasons should be furnished and that the Regulation should be worked sympathetically?

Secretary to Government, Development Department.—

Where the rules are not observed, the parties can go in appeal.

Mr. N. V. Narayana Murthy.—

But, in a good number of cases, practically no relief is afforded even on appeal. And as regards accounts, has it come to the notice of Government that although they are maintained by the merchants in their own time-honoured fashion, they are rejected on mere technical grounds?

Secretary to Government, Development Department.—

The accounts must be prepared according to the requirements of the Regulation and if not so prepared they will have to be rejected.

Mr. M. Subbiah.—

Are the Government aware that in many cases the demands have been cancelled but preferred in subsequent years against the same persons without any fresh grounds?

Dewan.—

It cannot be presumed that in subsequent years also, such persons had no taxable incomes. If they had no such income, they could prove their case by producing their accounts.

Mr. M. Subbiah.—

Is it not true that certain interested persons give false information and gain their own ends?

Secretary to Government, Development Department.—

The percentage of appeals filed, as shown in the statement, is not more than ten. That itself shows that the hardship is not so general.

Mr. P. Subbarama Chetty.—

When the economic condition of the people has worsened and the number of assesseees remains the same, what is the reason for showing increasing receipts under Income-tax year after year?

Secretary to Government, Development Department.—

The rates have been increased.

Mr. P. Subbarama Chetty.—

Will a schedule of rates to be levied in the case of taxation on the turn-over basis be published for general information?

Dewan.—

No objection.

Mr. P. Subbarama Chetty.—

Has it come to the notice of the Government that the rates in Mysore are higher than those in Madras?

Secretary to Government, Development Department.—

No.

Mr. P. Subbarama Chetty.—

May I know on what data the schedule of rates is prepared?

Secretary to Government, Development Department.—

It is prepared on the basis suggested by those who were consulted.

Mr. P. Subbarama Chetty.—

May I know whether the Grain Merchants' Association, the Chamber of Commerce, the Silk Association, etc., were consulted?

Second Member of Council.—

The Deputy Commissioners make all the necessary enquiries and then make recommendations. We do not consult institutions. We only make some general enquiries.

Mr. P. Subbarama Chetty.—

May I request the Government to acquaint themselves with the procedure adopted in Madras and give relief to the mercantile community here by lowering the rates?

Second Member of Council.—

We have our own law. There is no good consulting the procedure adopted in Madras.

Mr. P. Subbarama Chetty.—

Because the percentage of appeals is stated to be not more than ten, it does not mean that the assesseees are not put to hardships. Do the Government know that many assesseees cannot afford to pay court fees, lawyer's fees, etc., and go to courts of law and would rather pay what is demanded than undergo all these inconveniences and troubles?

Secretary to Government, Development Department.—

You cannot say that. Nobody will forego money when the claim is not just.

Mr. P. Subbarama Chetty.—

In future at least, while fixing the rates on the turn-over basis, will the Merchants' Associations be consulted?

Dewan.—

Yes.

Mr. K. T. Bhashyam Aiyangar.—

In the appendix to the answer, against the year 1920-21, the number of appeals filed is shown as 331 and that of disposals as only 164. May I know what has happened to the remaining cases? May I take them as pending? If not, how have they been disposed of?

Secretary to Government, Development Department.—

They must have gone on to the next year. They were not decided that year.

R.A.

Mr. K. T. Bhashyam Aiyangar.—

Is there any particular form of account prescribed and if so, have copies thereof been supplied? If not, why have they not been supplied?

Dewan.—

There is no obligation to keep accounts in any particular form. But accounts in whatever form kept should give all the information required for assessment purposes.

Mr. K. T. Bhashyam Aiyangar.—

At least, has it been laid down that if the accounts are kept in such and such a manner alone, they will be accepted and not otherwise?

Dewan.—

Yes; there is a Manual which gives full information on this point.

MR. NANJE GOWDA (Channarayapatna Taluk).—

Q.—29. Will the Government be pleased to state with reference to the tank known as “Bandarikatte” in the middle of Jattunahalli, Hadenahalli and Barahala villages, Kasaba Hobli, Channarayapatna taluk:—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Government have prepared an estimate for this tank?

(b) The amount of the estimate?

(c) The year in which the estimate was sanctioned?

(d) Whether it has come to the notice of the Government that three or four villages will be benefited if this tank is restored?

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.—

A.—29. (a) Yes.

(b) The amount of the estimate of 1927 is Rs. 31,650.

(c) An estimate for Rs. 16,229 was sanctioned in December 1908.

(d) Yes.

Supplementary Questions and Answers.

Mr. Nanje Gowda.—

May I know why the tank was not restored although an estimate had been sanctioned long ago?